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Wildlife Viewing Area



Chugach National Forest
Cordova Ranger District

Alaganik Slough Road

Location: Alaganik Slough Road is located at Mile 17 of the Copper River Highway, east of Cordova, Alaska.



Description: This 3.2 mile gravel road provides easy access to the wetlands of the Copper River Delta. It meanders through open meadows and around small ponds and sloughs to end at the edge of Alaganik Slough. Picnic sites, a boat launch and rest room facilities are available at the end of the road. Also, a 1,000 foot wetland boardwalk, with interpretive information, viewing blinds and tower, begins at the recreation site.

Recommended Season:

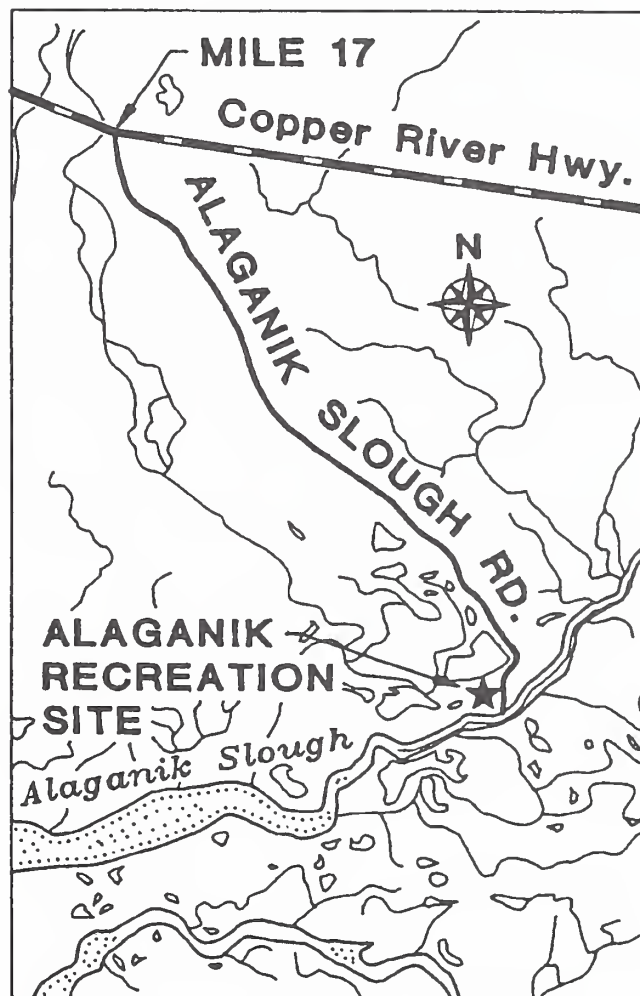
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Spring and Fall - migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, bald eagles

Summer - breeding trumpeter swans, ducks and grebes

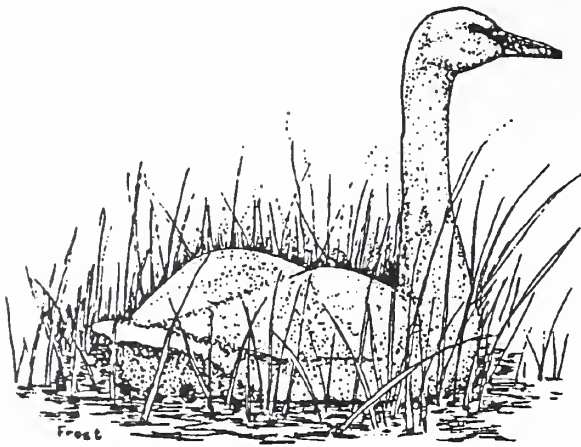
Winter - Moose, wolves

A Changing Land: This is a land of constant and often dramatic change. In 1964, the most violent earthquake yet recorded on the North American continent rocked southcentral Alaska and the Copper River Delta. The earthquake uplifted the Delta six feet and created dry, well-drained ground from soggy marshlands. Dry-soil-loving plants, such as willow, alder and sweet gale, were quick to move into the area.





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Trumpeter swans are commonly seen along Alaganik Slough Road.

As the vegetation in the area changes, animal populations also change. While moose have benefited from the increase in shrubs and trees, other species, such as dusky Canada geese have suffered.

To the east of the Alaganik Slough Road, clumps of spruce rise starkly from the low marsh. Left by the retreating glaciers, these bedrock outcroppings are called "haystacks".

A Helping Hand: Sometimes the Delta's wildlife needs a helping hand from humans! Along the Alaganik Slough Road, two habitat management programs are underway. Both dusky Canada geese and moose are benefiting from these efforts.

Dusky Canada Geese: Blanketed in water lilies and dotting the Alaganik area, small ponds provide nesting and rearing habitat for a myriad of waterfowl. Yet the population of dusky Canada geese has dropped dramatically since the 1964 earthquake. In an effort to reverse the downward population trend, the Forest Service has constructed artificial nest islands to entice geese to nest offshore to escape predation from mammals.

Moose: Moose have not always been members of the Delta community. Introduced between 1949 and 1959, moose have adapted well to their new home. From a starter population of 23 animals, moose populations have exploded.

In the future, natural changes on the Delta could cause a decrease in the quality of moose habitat. Research is underway to determine the feeding habits of moose and discover whether it is possible to increase the availability of the moose's favorite food—willow.

A Home for Many Species: Look for these wetland animals along the Alaganik Slough Road.

Moose	Northern harrier
Trumpeter swan	Dusky Canada goose
Wolf	Bald eagle
Coyote	Raven
Mallard	Black bear
Mew gull	American wigeon
Brown bear	Arctic tern
Ring-necked duck	Mink
Common snipe	Horned grebe
Beaver	Varied thrush
Fox sparrow	River otter
Wilson's warbler	Greater yellowlegs
Least weasel	Snowshoe hare
Orange-crowned warbler	

For more information:

Contact the Cordova Ranger District at P.O. Box 280, Cordova, Alaska 99574 or call (907) 424-7661.

